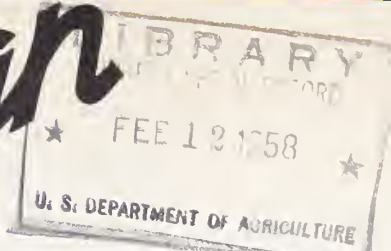


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# Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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## FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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# GREEK CIGARETTE OUTPUT CONTINUES TO RISE

Cigarette output in Greece continued to rise through the first half of 1957. Production amounted to 11.7 million pounds--about 6 percent above the January-June 1956 level of 11.1 million.

# ITALIAN TOBACCO EXPORTS TO WEST GERMANY NEARLY DOUBLED

Italian exports of unmanufactured tobacco to West Germany reached 5.9 million pounds during the first 8 months of 1957, nearly double the 3.1 million shipped during the entire calendar year 1956.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Italy, exports by country of destination, quantity and value, January-August 1957

Country of destination	January-August 1957		
	Quantity	Value	Average Price
	1,000 <u>pounds</u>	1,000 <u>dollars</u>	U. S. cents <u>per pound</u>
France.....	712	320	44.9
Germany, West.....	5,854	2,356	40.2
Netherlands.....	2,371	691	29.1
Switzerland.....	743	328	44.1
United States.....	3,116	1,659	53.2
Portugal.....	1,223	465	38.0
Sweden.....	653	320	48.9
United Kingdom.....	468	321	68.6
Egypt.....	468	200	42.7
All others.....	2,876	826	--
Total.....	18,484	7,486	40.5

Shipments to France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland for these months of 1957 were considerably below shipments for the same period a year earlier. The U.S.S.R., which took 6.7 million pounds of Italian leaf during calendar year 1956, took none during the first 8 months of 1957.

Portugal, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Egypt took no leaf in 1956 but bought significant quantities through August 1957.



#### VENEZUELAN CIGARETTE OUTPUT UP

Cigarette output in Venezuela during January-June 1957 amounted to 1.77 billion pieces, compared with 1.73 billion in the comparable period of 1956. Production of the "light" type of cigarettes reversed its upward trend and was about 1 percent below the January-June 1956 level of 1.48 billion pieces. Output of "dark" type cigarettes continues to rise from the 1953 low and represented about 17 percent of total production in January-June 1957. Production of cigars amounted to 35.0 million pieces, compared with 34.2 million in January-June 1956.

#### FILTER-TIP CIGARETTES GAINING IN DENMARK

Danish output of filter-tip cigarettes is rising. In October 1957 they accounted for about 13 percent of total production. (In the 1956 calendar year average output of filter-tips was 5 percent of total production). The rise in filter-tip production has resulted in larger usings of Burley, which are reportedly almost double those of 1956. This trend in usings of Burley is expected to continue.

#### NEW TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND CHINESE REPUBLIC INCLUDES TOBACCO

A new trade agreement has reportedly been concluded between Greece and the Republic of China (Taiwan). This is the first postwar agreement to be signed between the two countries. It includes Greek tobacco as one of the items available for export in exchange for Chinese goods.

The new agreement is valid through November 30, 1958, and is automatically renewable annually unless terminated on 3 months' written notice. The contracting parties accord each other most-favored-nation treatment with respect to custom duties, taxes, etc. Payments will be effected in United States dollars through central banks in the two countries.

#### ITALIAN TOBACCO CONSUMPTION RISES 7 PERCENT

Consumption of tobacco products in Italy during the first 6 months of 1957, as indicated by Monopoly sales, totaled 56.5 million pounds--about 7 percent above the January-June 1956 level of 52.8 million. Cigarette consumption, totaling 48.1 million pounds, was 9 percent larger than the January-June 1956 figure of 44.1 million, and represented 85.1 percent of total consumption.

#### INDIA PRODUCING MORE CIGARETTES

Cigarette output in India continued upward through the first 6 months of 1957. Production amounted to 14.2 billion pieces, up 12 percent from the January-June 1956 level of 12.7 billion.

# PROPOSAL TO PLACE JAPANESE TOBACCO MONOPOLY UNDER PRIVATE MANAGEMENT

The Japan Times reports that the "Corporation Deliberation Council" of Japan has formally recommended to the Japanese Government that the Japanese Tobacco Monopoly be placed under private management. The council was formed with a view to improving the efficiency of government monopolies.

## RENEWED INDONESIAN-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDED TOBACCO

The Trade Agreement between Indonesia and Hungary has been extended for another year following the conclusion of negotiations held in Djarkarta late in 1957. The agreement is valid until October 16, 1958 and is automatically renewed for further one-year periods unless denounced by either party 3 months prior to the expiration date.

The new agreement provides that all transactions shall be financed only in transferable pounds sterling. It lists Indonesian leaf, Krosok and cut tobacco as items available for export in exchange for Hungarian goods. Indonesian trade statistics during the past few years do not show any tobacco exports to Hungary.

## NORWAY ADDS PECANS AND LEMON JUICE TO DOLLAR FREE LIST

Effective January 1, 1958, the Norwegian Government has added pecans and unsweetened lemon juice to the dollar free import list. These items were previously subject to import licenses. Such licenses, however, had been generally issued automatically.

## MEXICO NEEDS MORE BEANS

CEIMSA, Mexico's semi-government food supply agency, has recommended that import permits for beans be granted freely to private importers. (CEIMSA itself will not import). The Mexican Department of Agriculture was expected to begin granting import permits the last week of January. Some reduction in the import duty is believed likely, but no decision has yet been announced.

Drought has cut the bean crop in Mexico's Monterrey area, Nuevo Leon, to 10 to 15 percent of normal, and bean crops in other northern states are also affected. However, as bean production in the north is much smaller than it is further south, the bean situation in all Mexico cannot yet be accurately appraised.

CEIMSA is said to still have stocks of 1956-crop beans, but the quantity and quality of these stocks has not been reported. On October 1, 1957, these stocks were estimated at 2.2 million bags.

# BELGIUM CONTINUES REDUCED FRUIT TARIFFS

The Belgian Government has announced that reduced rates of duty in effect during 1957 are extended through December 31, 1958. Fruit rates affected are:

<u>Tariff No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Normal rate</u>	<u>Reduced rate</u>
55a2	Oranges and mandarins other than Seville bitter oranges	15 or 20 percent according to period of importation	13 percent

# SYRIA'S 1957 DRIED FIG PACK IMPROVED

Absence of insect damage and generally favorable weather combined to produce a better-than-average (by Syrian standards) 1957 Syrian dried fig pack estimated at 2,200 short tons.

Syria's 1957 fresh fig crop of an estimated 24,000 tons was the largest since 1950. Utilization was as follows: 10,000 tons processed into dried figs, 300 tons canned, 800 tons made into jam and syrup, and the remainder consumed fresh.

Grades of dried figs obtained in Syria are normally low, with three-quarters of all production falling into the inedible classes. Small quantities of the best grades of dried figs are marketed in retail packages. The normal volume of Syrian fig exports is relatively small.

# JAPAN TO ADOPT METRIC SYSTEM FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Japan is planning to enforce its Law Number 207, of June 7, 1951, which provides that the metric system of weights and measures will be the only officially recognized system for use in Japan from January 1, 1959. This means that the confusing mixture of Japanese, European, and American systems now employed will be abandoned.

# POLAND TO SHIP MORE CANNED MEAT TO U. K. IN 1958

Poland will be shipping more canned meat to the United Kingdom in 1958 than in 1957 under terms of a protocol to the Polish-U.K. trade agreement recently announced in Warsaw. Polish exports of bacon and ham to the United Kingdom in 1958 are expected to be the same as last year.

The United Kingdom imported 47,000 tons of bacon from Poland in 1957 and around 4,000 tons of canned meats, mostly canned pork. U. K. exports to Poland under the trade agreement include textile raw materials, rubber, and non-ferrous metals.



# MONTEVIDEO'S MEAT SUPPLY GREATLY IMPROVED

The meat supply of Montevideo, Uruguay, rose sharply in the first weeks of January. The government-sponsored National Packing Plant was operating at almost full capacity for the first time in several months by virtue of a recent law permitting it to increase its capitalization by about 40 million pesos (\$9 million). This allowed the plant to reduce its debts to cattle producers for cattle previously delivered. Producers have thus been encouraged to send more slaughter cattle to the plant (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 27, 1958).

## DOMINION WOOL PRICES DROP IN DECEMBER

Dominion wool prices continued to decline in December. However, a firmer tone just before the Christmas recess was taken by some to indicate that prices would go no lower.

Compared with the 1957 peak in May, merino prices have dropped 30 per cent, and crossbred values have declined 24 percent. This is the sharpest drop in wool prices since 1951 and reflects the economic difficulties and resulting decline in commodity prices in several important wool-buying countries.

WOOL: Clean cost, c.i.f. in the United Kingdom, based on auction sales in the United Kingdom and the Dominions

Quality	December 1956	May 1957	September 1957	October 1957	November 1957	December 1957
- - - - - U. S. dollars per pound - - - - -						
70's .....	1.61	1.74	1.49	1.42	1.35	1.24
64's .....	1.48	1.63	1.40	1.32	1.25	1.12
60's .....	1.38	1.52	1.33	1.25	1.19	1.07
58's .....	1.24	1.39	1.27	1.19	1.13	1.03
56's .....	1.10	1.27	1.18	1.11	1.02	.98
50's .....	.95	1.07	.97	.91	.85	.82
48's .....	.93	1.04	.93	.87	.83	.79
46's .....	.92	1.02	.91	.85	.82	.79

Source: New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency)

# VENEZUELA ISSUES FERTILE EGG IMPORT LICENSES FOR 1958

The Venezuelan Ministry of Development (Fomento) announced through the Caracas press that it had issued licenses effective January 1, 1958, for imports of 29,185,536 fertile eggs (2.4 million dozen) for incubation. The licenses were issued to cover needs for the 6-month period January-July, thus inaugurating a new policy of semester licensing instead of the previous quarterly system. Authorized imports are considered by the Ministry to be 10 percent above requirements for the period in order to allow for losses.

## CANADIAN FIG PRODUCTION EXPECTED HIGHER

Canadian hog farrowings from December 1957 through May 1958 are expected to be 23 percent above the same period a year earlier, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The largest increase is expected in Western Canada, which looks for a rise of 27 percent. Eastern Canadian hog farrowings are expected to average 19 percent above a year earlier. The greatest numerical increase is expected in Alberta, where farrowings are expected to rise from 125,000 to 155,000.

This increase is a result of low production and favorable hog prices during 1957. The average hog-barley ratio at Winnipeg stood at 25.5 during 1957, the highest since 1939, and much above the longtime (1913-1949) average of 18.3.

Hog slaughter will be heavy during the first part of 1958, and Canadian exports of pork to the United States are expected to increase as Canadian prices fall in relation to U.S. prices.

FARROWINGS: Canada 1/, December-May 1954-55 to 1957-58

Class	December-May			
	1954-55:	1955-56:	1956-57:	1957-58
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000
	: <u>head</u>	: <u>head</u>	: <u>head</u>	: <u>head</u>
Sows farrowed.....	: 628	: <u>2</u> / 497	: 496	: <u>3</u> / 610
Pigs saved.....	: 4,827	: 3,740	: 3,852	: --

1/ Nine provinces, excludes Newfoundland. 2/ Revised. 3/ Sows bred to farrow.

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

## IRELAND ANNOUNCES LOWER SUPPORT PRICES FOR HOGS

Minimum guaranteed prices of hogs in Ireland will decline 5 shillings (70 cents) per 112 pounds, dressed weight, beginning July 1, 1958, according to the Irish Department of Agriculture.

The policy of guaranteeing prices of Grade A and B1 hogs was introduced on May 1, 1956, following the termination of the 1951 bacon price support agreement with the British Government. Commercial bacon curers in Ireland pay farmers the specified support prices on all Grade A and B1 hogs processed. In return, the Irish Government guarantees the curers a minimum price for exports of this bacon.

Lower prices for bacon on the British market during the past year have increased the cost of the export subsidy. The program has been financed partly by the exchequer and partly by a levy paid by bacon curers on all hogs slaughtered for bacon production. Government sources estimate cost of the bacon subsidy at £600,000 (\$1,680,000) for the year ending April 1, 1958.

On July 1, 1958, support prices to farmers for Grade A carcasses will decline to 230 shillings per cwt. (\$28.75 per 100 pounds) and Grade B1 to 225 shillings per cwt. (\$28.10 per 100 pounds). Grade B1 varies only slightly from Grade A, but may include carcasses of slightly higher weights. Other grades are not included under the support program.

## JAPAN FACES SURPLUS MILK PROBLEM

Japanese milk production has exceeded domestic consumption, according to recent reports. Preliminary estimates place 1957 output at just under 3 billion pounds, almost 19 percent over 1956. There is some feeling that consumption would keep pace with production if the retail price were lowered. Producers, on the other hand, claim that the present price does not make dairying a profitable enterprise and that further price cuts are unjustified.

The Japanese Government, which has encouraged increased output in recent years, has announced a plan to relieve the surplus situation through the School Lunch Program. The program is expected to use about 120 million pounds from January 1, 1958, to March 31, 1959, at a total subsidy cost of \$3 million. In Tokyo, for example, the price to school children will be the equivalent of 3.7 cents per quart instead of the retail price of 10.9 cents. The difference will be paid through subsidies (5.8 cents from the federal government and 1.4 cents from local governments).

Opinion varies as to the effect this program will have on the present school lunch program, which utilizes U. S. nonfat dry milk. Some say that the local fluid milk will displace the powdered product while others believe that the liquid milk will be sold in schools that do not participate in the present program.



NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING LESS  
BUTTER AND CHEESE TO U.K.

Arrivals of New Zealand butter in British ports in December 1957 dropped to 47.0 million pounds from 51.2 million pounds in December 1956. Arrivals of cheese, at 18.0 million pounds, were considerably below the 1956 level of 28.5 million pounds.

January 1958 arrivals of both butter and cheese are expected to be much lighter than in January 1957.

CANADIAN MEAT PRODUCTION  
UP 8 PERCENT

Canada produced about 545 million pounds of carcass meat in inspected slaughterhouses during the fourth quarter of 1957. This was 37 million pounds, or 8 percent, above production during the same period of 1956, and 12 percent above production of the preceding quarter.

Stocks of meat in cold storage on January 1, 1958--41.6 million pounds--were about equal to stocks a year earlier, but showed different trends. Pork stocks were up about 17 percent and beef stocks down 8 percent from a year earlier.

Inspected slaughter during the last quarter of 1957 was down for all classes of livestock except cattle. Cattle slaughter continued at a high level, while hog slaughter showed a recovery from the low slaughter of mid-1957. Large quantities of feeder and slaughter cattle were exported to the United States during the fourth quarter of 1957.

INSPECTED SLAUGHTER: Canada 1/, October-December, 1953-57

Class	October-December				
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Cattle.....	393	431	479	514	555
Calves.....	159	167	170	196	194
Hogs.....	1,214	1,419	1,577	1,363	1,354
Sheep and lambs.....	234	241	248	258	229

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

Source: Livestock and Meat Trade Report,  
Canadian Department of Agriculture.



**WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES: Wholesale prices at specified markets,  
with comparisons  
(U. S. cents per pound)**

Country, market, and description	Butter				Cheese			
	Quotations				Quotations			
	Cur-: Month : Year				Cur-: Month : Year			
	1958	rent	earlier	earlier	1958	rent	earlier	earlier
<u>United Kingdom (London)</u>								
New Zealand, finest-----	Jan.2	32.5	32.5	34.2				
Australian choicest-----	Jan.2	32.4	32.4	34.1				
New Zealand, finest								
white-----	Jan.2	16.4	16.4	31.9				
Australian choicest								
white-----	Jan.2	-	15.6	30.2				
<u>Australia (Sydney)</u>								
Choicest butter-----	Jan.2	46.7	46.7	46.7				
Choicest cheddar-----	Jan.2	28.2	28.2	28.2				
<u>Irish Republic (Dublin)</u>								
Creamery butter-----	Jan.2	54.8	54.8	48.9				
Cheese-----	Jan.2	30.8	30.8	30.8				
<u>Denmark (Copenhagen)</u>	Jan.2	36.3	36.3	46.2				
<u>France (Paris)</u>								
Charentes creamery-----	Jan.6	75.8	83.4	90.7				
<u>Germany (Kempten)</u>								
Markenbutter-----	1/Dec.18	68.1	68.1	67.6				
<u>United States</u>								
92-score creamery (N.Y.)	Jan.2	60.5	61.2	60.5				
Cheddar (Wisconsin)-----	Jan.2	35.0	35.0	33.2				
<u>Netherlands (Leeuwarden)</u>								
Creamery butter-----	1/Dec.31	49.9	49.9	49.6				
Full cream Gouda-----	1/Dec.20	22.8	23.5	27.1				
Edam, 40 percent-----	1/Dec.20	20.4	21.0	24.7				
<u>Belgium (Hasselt)</u>	Jan.2	86.0	84.0	88.3				
<u>Canada (Montreal)</u>								
1st grade creamery-----	1/Dec.28	63.7	64.0	60.6				
Ontario white-----	1/Dec.28	32.5	35.4	35.3				

1/ For 1957.

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, the Commonwealth Economic Committee; and the Dairy Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

U.K. IMPORTING MORE  
BUTTER, LESS CHEESE

The United Kingdom imported 715 million pounds of butter during the 11 months ending November 30, 1957, compared with 712.6 million pounds in the corresponding period of 1956.

In 1957, arrivals from principal suppliers were down, while those from a number of minor suppliers were considerably heavier. Shipments from New Zealand during January-November 1957 were 279.6 million pounds, compared with 304.7 million pounds in the same period of 1956.

Denmark supplied 181.4 million pounds in 1957, and 190.2 million in 1956, while Australia's shipments were 103.5 million pounds, compared with 146.2 million. Meanwhile, Ireland's exports to the United Kingdom rose from 358,000 pounds in 1956 to 28.5 million in 1957. Finland's shipments of 43.5 million pounds were more than twice those of 1956. Heavier supplies also were received from Argentina, the Netherlands, and the Union of South Africa.

Cheese imports of 250 million pounds for January-November 1957 were about 6 percent below the same months of 1956, due to lower supplies from all countries except Australia and France. Australia's shipments were 25.2 million pounds in 1957, 23.2 million pounds a year earlier. France's exports of 1.8 million pounds were almost the same as the preceding year. Combined 1957 exports from the major suppliers, New Zealand, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States, were 94 percent of 1956.

Trade in dry whole milk for the 11-month period declined 3 percent to about 15 million pounds. Supplies from the Netherlands dropped to 3.5 million pounds from 4.2 million pounds in 1956, those from Australia from 1.2 million pounds to 738,000 pounds. Among countries making heavier shipments were New Zealand, 6.1 million pounds against 5.7 million pounds, and Denmark, 1.5 million pounds against 1.1 million pounds.

Imports of nonfat dry milk were 86.3 million pounds for January-November 1957. In the corresponding period of 1956, imports were 85.7 million pounds. Australian shipments at 12.6 million pounds were less than half those of 1956. Denmark's supplies dropped to 672,000 pounds from 3.0 million pounds in 1956. New Zealand increased its shipments to 65.3 million pounds from 50.3 million pounds, while Ireland's exports rose to 7.7 million pounds from 4.1 million pounds. Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Sweden--all important suppliers in 1956--made no shipments to the United Kingdom in the first 11 months of 1957.

CORRECTION

In the article on Argentine casein production and exports in the January 20, 1958, issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, page 20, the figure for Argentine shipments to the United States should have been 37.3 million pounds instead of 57.8 million pounds.

## ZANZIBAR HAS RECORD CLOVE CROP

Preliminary estimates place Zanzibar's 1957 clove crop at an alltime high of 65 million pounds. By the end of December about 52.5 million pounds had been sold, and the Clove Growers Association suspended purchases. Storage facilities are said to be filled to capacity.

GREECE INVITES BIDS  
FOR SUGAR FACTORY

Looking to the possibility of producing part of its refined sugar requirement, the Government of Greece has invited bids to plan, construct, and equip in central Greece a factory able to produce some 28,000 metric tons (31,000 short tons) of crystalline beet sugar annually. This would be about one-third the quantity of sugar imported by Greece in 1956.

ARGENTINA ISSUING SUGAR  
IMPORT PERMITS

The Central Bank of Argentina has announced that import permits for sugar will be granted this year at the official rate of exchange (18 pesos to \$1) for a total of 50,000 tons from the following countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Israel, Paraguay, Poland, Rumania, U.S.S.R., Uruguay, and Yugoslavia.

The Minister of Agriculture estimates that Argentina produced about 9 percent less centrifugal sugar in 1957 than in 1956.

SUGARCANE AND SUGAR: Argentina, planted and harvested cane acreage, cane and centrifugal sugar production, 1953-57 1/

Year of harvest	Area in cane		Cane produced	Cane crushed	Centrifugal sugar, raw value
	Total	Harvested			
	1,000 <u>acres</u>	1,000 <u>acres</u>	<u>1,000 short tons</u>		
1953.....	688	673	10,578	10,351	829
1954.....	713	701	10,768	10,628	908
1955.....	736	708	10,278	10,274	682
1956.....	766	<u>2/</u>	10,884	10,268	851
1957 <u>3/</u> .....	726	<u>2/</u>	10,814	10,180	772

1/ Harvesting begins in May or June; crushing starts in August. 2/ Not available. 3/ Preliminary.



#### GUATEMALAN COFFEE EXPORTS UP IN 1957

Guatemala exported 1,060,042 bags of coffee (132 pounds each) in calendar 1957, according to preliminary data. Exports in 1956 totaled 1,024,079 bags.

Guatemala was one of 7 countries signing a late-1957 agreement which tends to control the amount of coffee entering the market. Export quotas were established under the agreement, and Guatemala's allocation for the period November 1, 1957-March 31, 1958, was 523,771 bags. In the first 2 months of the quota period (November-December 1957), Guatemala exported 293,122 bags, or 56 percent of its quota.

#### U.S.S.R. BUYING 1958- CROP CUBAN SUGAR

On January 22, 1958, the Cuban Sugar Stabilization Institute sold the U.S.S.R. its first purchase of 1958-crop sugar in the amount of 100,000 Spanish long tons (113,581 short tons) of raw sugar for February-April delivery, at a price of 3.65 cents per pound, f.o.b. Cuba. The U.S.S.R. also obtained a 20-day option to purchase not less than 100,000 tons additional for February-May delivery at the market price of sugar on the day the operation is closed, adjusted by a small discount.

Austria also will be buying Cuban sugar this year. The Cuban-Austrian Trade Agreement has been extended through 1958 and 1959, and under certain provisions may be extended automatically each year thereafter. Under the agreement, Austria continues its obligation to purchase 10,000 metric tons (11,000 short tons) of Cuban raw sugar annually.

In spite of political unrest, Cuba is expected to have no trouble producing its self-imposed production limit of 5.5 million Spanish long tons (6.2 million short tons) of centrifugal sugar. The Cuban Sugar Mill Owners Association estimates that Cuba will have about 3,499,000 acres of cane this year, divided as follows: left-over cane, 85,600; ratoon cane, 2,953,600; fall and winter plant cane, 189,400; and spring plant cane, 270,400. By January 19, 71 of Cuba's 161 mills had begun grinding, in contrast to only 36 on that date last year.

#### U.K. REVISES GRAIN ESTIMATES UPWARD

Most recent official estimates of the United Kingdom's 1957 grain crops show slightly larger yields than previously estimated. Wheat production is now placed at 100 million bushels, only 7 million less than the near-record outturn in 1956. Acreage was less than in 1956 and yields about the same.

Barley production, now estimated at about 138 million bushels, was larger than in 1956 because of larger acreage. The 1958 crop of oats is now estimated at 150 million bushels, compared with 174 million last year. Both acreage and yields were below the 1956 figures.



# CEYLON LOWERS ESTIMATE OF RICE IMPORT NEEDS

Ceylon's 1958 rice import requirements above usual imports are now estimated at 100,000 to 130,000 long tons (1 long ton = 2,240 pounds) of milled rice. This is less than the first estimate of 150,000 tons (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 27). The estimated cost is \$1,050,000 to \$1,365,000, based on the replacement cost of \$4.69 per 100 pounds for rice from southeast Asia sources.

First-crop losses are now estimated at 60,000 to 90,000 long tons, and it is estimated that the second crop will be reduced by 40,000 tons. Much of the rice in some of the principal rice-growing areas affected by the flood is in relatively good condition.

# BRITISH GUIANA'S RICE SURPLUS CUT BY DROUGHT

The rice surplus for export from British Guiana's 1957-58 crop is expected to be less than half of exports in 1956-57. Exportable supplies available in the marketing year October 1957 - September 1958 are estimated at around 20,000 long tons (1 long ton = 2,240 pounds), compared with exports of nearly 42,000 tons in 1956-57.

The manager of the British Guiana Rice Marketing Board announced on January 6 that contracting members of the Regional Rice Agreement for the British West Indies have been authorized to purchase their May-September rice requirements from sources other than British Guiana. This announcement followed an earlier authorization for the British West Indies to purchase their February-April requirements from other sources. Therefore, British Guiana will export no more rice to these countries this year.

# YUGOSLAV GRAIN PROSPECTS GOOD

Yugoslavia's 1958 area seeded to fall wheat and rye is estimated to be about the same as in 1957, and condition of the crop is good. About 95 percent of intended winter wheat acreage had been seeded by November 26, according to official reports. Weather generally favored seeding during October and November, though rainy weather caused some delay in certain districts.

Condition of winter grains in late December was reported good-to-excellent in 85 percent of the seeded area. Soil moisture was ample on 90 percent of the agricultural area. Cold weather in late November and early December appears to have caused little damage, since snow-cover was adequate in areas of lowest temperatures.

Grain crops in 1957 were at record or near-record levels, according to preliminary estimates. Despite high production, wheat import requirements remained substantial, though sharply below the large imports of 1956-57.

FRANCE IMPORTS  
LESS COTTON

France's imports of cotton during the first 4 months (August-November) of the 1957-58 season amounted to 287,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down 27 percent from imports of 391,000 bales during the comparable period a year earlier. The reduction resulted from withholding of import permits to conserve low reserves of foreign exchange. The only cotton supplies available from dollar sources are the small imports authorized in return for exports of cotton textiles to hard currency countries.

The sharpest decline was in imports from the United States, which were 51,000 bales, or 18 percent of the total in August-November 1957, compared with 136,000 bales, or 35 percent of the total last year. Imports from Greece, Syria, Brazil, Mexico, the Belgian Congo, U.S.S.R., Peru, and Iran were also down. These reduced quantities were partially offset by increased imports from Uganda, Egypt, French Colonial areas, Central America, the Sudan, and Paraguay.

Quantities imported from principal sources during August-November 1957, with comparable 1956 figures in parentheses, were: French Colonial areas 91,000 bales (74,000); United States 51,000 (136,000); Egypt 45,000 (20,000); Uganda 37,000 (0); Sudan 13,000 (7,000); Peru 11,000 (16,000); Central America 8,000 (0); Belgian Congo 6,000 (18,000); and Paraguay 6,000 (2,000).

The cotton textile industry in France continued to operate at a high level. Consumption of 439,000 bales during August-November 1957 was only slightly below the 443,000 bales consumed during August-November 1956. United States cotton accounted for 25 percent of total consumption, compared with 27 percent of the total in August-November 1956. Among other growths, notable increases occurred in the use of British African, Central American, Turkish, Pakistani, and Mexican cotton. There were sharp declines in consumption of Egyptian and Brazilian and, to a lesser extent, Syrian and French African.

Production of cotton yarn and fabrics in October was 8 percent above October 1956. There was an increase in the number of personnel employed, the number of spindles and looms in operation increased slightly, and equipment was used longer hours. Volume of orders on hand has declined slightly after reaching a peak in February 1957, but was still at a relatively good level during the first quarter of the 1957-58 season. Orders on hand in October were equivalent to 2.5 months' operation for spinners, and 2.2 months' for weavers.

Stocks of raw cotton in France were estimated at 408,000 bales on November 30, 1957, down 27 percent from stocks of 560,000 bales on August 1, 1957. Stocks of American cotton at some mills were expected to be exhausted by the end of 1957.

Prices of most growths of cotton on the French market continued to increase slightly through October 1957. Late in October, the new exchange rate of 420 French francs per U. S. dollar was applied to cotton, and prices of all growths except French African advanced about 20 percent. U. S. Strict Middling 1-inch cotton advanced from 35.90 cents per pound on October 28, 1957, to 42.38 cents per pound on November 4, 1957, and was quoted at 44.06 cents per pound on December 10, 1957.

#### NIGERIA HAS RECORD COTTON CROP

Nigeria is expected to have a record cotton crop of 180,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in August-July 1957-58. Growing conditions have been ideal, and both grade and staple are reported to be the best in years. Production in 1956-57 was reduced by unfavorable weather to only 135,000 bales, compared with 150,000 in 1955-56. Cotton acreage for 1957-58 was estimated at 850,000 acres, compared with 750,000 in 1956-57. Cotton is often interplanted with other crops in Nigeria, and annual acreage estimates may vary considerably.

Most of Nigeria's cotton exports go to the United Kingdom. Exports in 1956-57 were 102,000 bales, compared with 159,000 in 1955-56. The lower crop accounted for the decline in exports.

Domestic cotton consumption in 1956-57 was estimated at 20,000 bales, 5,000 by a new textile mill, and 15,000 by home industries. The new mill, at Kaduna, was scheduled for full operation in late 1957. It has a capacity of about 10,000 bales per year and is expected to produce from 11 to 12 million yards of white cloth for native work clothes, all for the local market. The fully modern mill has air-conditioning and excellent light; its equipment is mostly British. It is the first mill to use locally grown cotton. Two other mills, at Kano and Logos, use imported yarn.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 18,000 bales, compared with 5,000 bales a year earlier. Nigerian cotton is American upland type, mostly improved Allen varieties. The average staple length ranges from 1 to 1-1/16 inches. Continuous research on plant breeding, disease and insect control, fertilizers, and cultural methods is being done at Samaru.

#### CANADA REMOVES FIXED DUTY VALUATION ON STRAWBERRIES

The Canadian Department of National Revenue has removed the fixed value on imported strawberries. The measure was effective December 14. A minimum duty valuation of 13½ cents per pound for imports of fresh strawberries had been established by the Canadian Government on June 13, 1957. At the same time, the value of imported frozen strawberries was set at 19½ cents per pound in packages of 1½ pounds or more and 23½ cents per pound on consumer sizes.



## CHILE IMPORTS MORE U. S. COTTON

Chile imported 54,000 bales of U. S. cotton during the August-July 1956-57 season, 74 percent of Chile's total cotton imports, and well above the previous 5-year average of 26,000 bales. Total cotton imports were 73,000 bales in 1956-57, down 25 percent from imports of 97,000 bales in 1955-56. Other principal sources of Chile's cotton in 1956-57, with 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Brazil 10,000 (8,000); and Peru 8,000 (78,000).

Cotton consumption in Chile declined 12 percent in 1956-57, amounting to 85,000 bales as against 97,000 in 1955-56. A severe cutback in mill operations took place in recent months, as inflation caused textile prices to rise while consumer purchasing power was reduced. Some small mills have gone out of business or sold out to larger mills. Most of the larger mills are operating more modern equipment and are considered able to survive the current recession in the textile business. Cotton consumption in 1957-58 is expected to drop to about 75,000 bales.

Cotton stocks on August 1, 1957, were estimated at 21,000 bales, down about 35 percent from stocks of 33,000 bales a year earlier.

Import deposit rates for dollar cotton have been reduced from 100 percent to 50 percent of landed value.

RHODESIAS-NYASALAND BEGIN  
TO IMPORT U. S. COTTON

The Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland imported 3,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of U. S. cotton in calendar year 1956. This was the first substantial quantity of U. S. cotton to be imported by the Federation. There are indications that the cotton worked well in the local mills, as additional quantities have since been purchased.

U.S. exports of cotton to the Federation (Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia, and Nyasaland) were nearly 8,000 bales in August-July 1956-57, and over 6,000 bales in the first 4 months (August-November) of the 1957-58 season. Total cotton imports by the Federation in 1956 were 13,000 bales, compared with 11,000 in 1955 and 15,000 in 1954. Total consumption in 1956-57 was 18,000 bales and ending stocks about 5,000.

Before 1955, the Federation was both an exporter and importer of raw cotton. Nyasaland cotton was exported, principally to the United Kingdom; lint for the Gatooma mills in Southern Rhodesia was imported. At the present time the Federation's entire production (about 5,000 bales per year, practically all in Nyasaland) is shipped to Gatooma by the Marketing Board at prices fixed by arbitration in the United Kingdom. All cotton is rain-grown by Africans, on individual small holdings. The Marketing Board buys the growers' cotton unginced at fixed prices.



1957 PORTUGUESE ALMOND HARVEST  
NEAR-RECORD SIZE

Favorable growing conditions during 1957 resulted in a Portuguese almond crop of 6,200 short tons, shelled basis--a volume 2-1/3 times as large as the frost-damaged crop of the preceding year. The 1957 harvest is considered to be 17 percent above average production for the period 1950-54, and in recent years has been exceeded only by 1953 production.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Portugal, supply and distribution, 1956-57 and forecast 1957-58, marketing season beginning September 1

Item	1956-57	Forecast 1957-58
	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks.....	100	100
Production.....	2,700	6,200
Total supply.....	2,800	6,300
Exports.....	1/ 3,000	5,500
Other disappearance.....	400	500
End stocks.....	100	300
	3,500	6,300

1/ Includes an estimated 700 tons Spanish almonds smuggled through Portugal to other destinations.

Prices of Portuguese almonds paralleled the almond price trend in other producing countries during 1957 when they dropped sharply from the high 1956 levels. In early January of this year, almond prices in Portugal were the lowest in many months. Farmers' prices in the Douro area ranged between 34.5 and 35.5 cents per pound, shelled, and in the Algarve section between 37.6 and 38.1 cents.

F.o.b. export prices for north-Portugal shelled almonds during early January were 39.2 cents per pound for unselected nuts. Algarve unselecteds, meanwhile, were bringing between 39.2 and 42.3 cents per pound. Shippers at the southern port of Faro were quoting unselecteds at 44.5 cents per pound, c. & f. Hamburg.

The Portuguese almond trade estimates that half the 1957 crop has already been sold. Demand has continued firm and marketings orderly. Stocks on hand are said to consist of about 600 tons in the Douro region and 2,400 in the Algarve region.

Smuggling of Spanish almonds into Portugal is reported to have been halted.

GREECE REVISES 1957 DRIED  
CURRANT PRODUCTION UPWARD

Greek dried currant production in 1957 is officially estimated at 88,000 short tons, slightly above the 1950-54 average, and about 10 percent more than indicated early last September. Quality of the currant pack is also said to be better than was expected earlier, due to the rainy harvest. The 1957 pack, however, is about 14 percent below the 102,000-ton pack of 1956, the largest since 1941.

CURRANTS, DRIED: Greece, Supply and distribution,  
1956-57 and 1957-58

Item	1956-57	Forecast 1957-58
	Short tons	Short tons
Production.....	102,000	88,000
Beginning stocks, Sept. 1.....	200	1/ 21,500
Total.....	102,200	109,500
Exports.....	67,000	71,500
Domestic use.....	13,500	38,000
End stocks, Aug. 31.....	21,700	0
Total.....	102,200	109,500

1/ About 8,300 tons used by alcoholic distillation industries as of mid-December 1957. Most, if not all, of balance to be used for distillation by February 15, 1958.

Export prices for Greek currants as of mid-December were from 5 to 10 percent above opening prices of September 1957 and 5 percent higher than in mid-December of 1956. Indicative prices per short ton for currants, f.o.b. Greek ports, by regions were:

Region	December 7, 1957	December 17, 1957
Aegion (Vostizza)	\$269	\$269
Corinth (Gulf)	249	253
Patras	241	245
Amalias	231	243
Pyrgos	229	239
Kalamai	222	226

In the 1956-57 marketing period (September 1, 1956-August 31, 1957) 67,088 tons of Greek currants were exported. The United Kingdom was the principal buyer, taking 72 percent of all Greek currant exports. About 500 tons went to East Germany and 2,200 tons to the U.S.S.R. Nearly all the rest of the exports went to Western Europe.

Between September 1 and December 10, 1957, of the new marketing season, 36,608 tons of Greek currants were sold abroad--72 percent again going to the United Kingdom and the rest chiefly to Western Europe; no purchases by the Soviet Union were reported.

# GREEK RAISIN PRODUCTION SETS RECORD

Greek production of raisins, mostly sultanas, set a record of 62,000 short tons in 1957. The 1957 pack is nearly half again as large as the annual 1950-54 average, and 22 percent above the previous season. The increase is attributed to nearly ideal growing conditions better husbandry, and acreage expansion since World War II.

More than 90 percent of the Greek raisin pack normally is exported. West Germany, the principal market, takes about 40 percent of these shipments.

RAISINS: Greece, exports by country of destination, Sept. 1-Aug. 31, 1955-56 and 1956-57 and Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 1957

Destination	Quantities exported		
	Sept. 1, 1955	Sept. 1, 1956	Sept. 1, 1957
	to	to	to
	Aug. 31, 1956	Aug. 31, 1957	Nov. 30, 1957
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Austria.....	3,369	1,512	2,079
Egypt.....	763	2,051	112
France.....	4,039	2,290	462
Germany, East.....	989	783	1,240
Germany, West.....	19,199	19,292	17,038
Ireland.....	3,093	638	1,573
Italy.....	2,824	1,370	3,134
Japan.....	916	2,555	467
United Kingdom.....	5,325	3,951	8,229
U.S.S.R.....	1,996	6,692	225
Yugoslavia.....	1,109	2,049	23
Other countries.....	5,168	2,928	4,743
Total exports.....	48,790	46,111	39,325

During the early part of last November, prices for Greek sultanas began rising. By mid-December, f.o.b. prices had reached the following levels:

Grades	Dollars per short ton
No. 0 Bleached	\$441
No. 1 "	430
No. 2 "	391
No. 4 "	369
No. 4 Unbleached	358

Most of the supplies in the two better sultana grades (0 and 1) have already been exported.



#### WEST GERMANY ALLOWS IMPORTS OF CONCENTRATED APPLE AND PEAR JUICE

The West German Government has extended its import tender for "Fruit juice concentrates in containers of 3 kilograms or more" to cover apple and pear juice concentrates. This tender includes the dollar area. Customs clearance deadline for apple and pear juice concentrates is June 30, 1958.

#### IRELAND LIFTS RESTRICTION ON ONION IMPORTS

After February 10, 1958, Ireland will permit imports of onions, fresh or dried, without licenses. Health certificates will still be required. During the first 9 months of 1957, Ireland imported 83,310 cwt. of onions. Egypt and the Netherlands were the major suppliers. The United States supplied about 5,400 cwt.

#### WEST GERMANY EXTENDS DOLLAR LIBERALIZATION

On January 11, 1958, West Germany published its sixth dollar liberalization list. Among the newly added farm products, those of chief interest to U.S. agriculture are fresh citrus, table grapes, and cranberries; canned tomatoes; raw cottonseed and linseed oils for food; and refined soybean, cottonseed, and linseed oils for non-food purposes.

A complete list of the farm products that West Germany has thus far liberalized to the dollar area will be published soon as a Foreign Agricultural Trade Policy (FATP) Circular.

#### PROSPECTS GOOD FOR AUSTRALIA'S NEW PACK OF SULTANAS AND CURRANTS

Tonnage and quality of Australia's sultana and currant production in 1958 are expected to be the best since 1952.

Recent forecasts, based on present fruit maturity levels and other considerations, place 1958 sultana production at 78,000 short tons and dried currants at 17,000 tons. Tonnage of sultanas in 1957 (70,000) was about 10 percent less, while 1950-54 production averaged 58,200 tons. The 1957 currant pack was only 11,400 tons, while the 1950-54 average was 15,600 tons.

The prospective heavy production of Australian sultanas and currants comes at a time when below-average crops have been harvested in the principal competing countries.



#### ITALY RELAXES RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS OF SESAME SEED

Sesame seed may now be imported into Italy without purchases of oil from government stocks in fixed ratio (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 23, 1957). This change in import regulations was made on January 1 by the Italian High Commission for Food.

Import authorizations will be for January-July 1958, and the quantity to be imported will be based on amounts of sesame oil needed by producers of margarine and hydrogenated oils for this period. Producers will present to the High Commission a certificate declaring the quantity of sesame oil they used in the July 1-December 31, 1957 period and will be authorized to import sesame seed with an oil equivalent equal to the quantity used in that period.

#### SWISS DOUBLE IMPORTS OF U. S. BROILERS

Switzerland doubled its purchases of U. S. dressed poultry in 1957 as the result of new trade development begun only 2 years ago by U. S. and Swiss businessmen.

Swiss imports of U. S. dressed poultry, now the fastest growing U. S. agricultural export to Switzerland, amounted to nearly 7,000,000 pounds last year. This was more than twice the 1956 total.

Most of these imports consisted of quick-frozen, ready-to-cook broilers, which have been readily accepted on the Swiss market. Housewives find the prices attractive, especially in relation to other meat prices. Major food stores in the larger Swiss cities have refrigerated counters, and eye-catching displays of American ready-to-cook broilers are being featured more and more.

Belief is that only a beginning has been made in developing the potential Swiss market for U. S. broilers. Swiss consumption of poultry meat amounts to less than 5 pounds per capita, per year compared with the almost 31-pound U. S. average. Aggressive merchandising should expand consumption. Sales to families for picnics, and to hotels catering to tourist trade have been suggested as market expansion possibilities.

U. S. poultry is not displacing Swiss broiler production, which is very small, but is supplying an expanding Swiss demand.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Official Business

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
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